

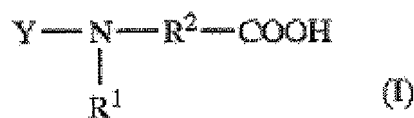
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1. (canceled).**

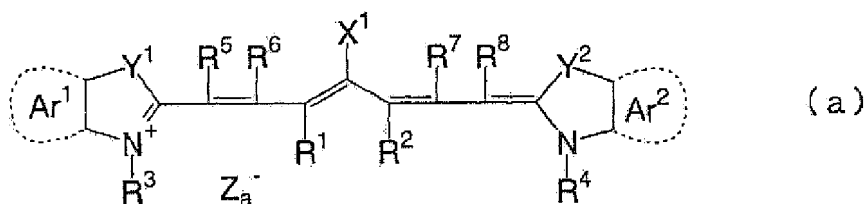
**2. (currently amended):** A planographic printing plate precursor comprising an intermediate layer containing a polymer having a structure represented by the following formula (I) and an onium group at its side chain and an infrared laser photosensitive positive recording layer containing an infrared absorbing agent disposed on a support in this order:



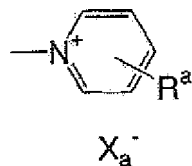
wherein Y represents a connecting group connected with a main chain of the polymer; R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrocarbon group substituted with a carboxylic acid group; and R<sup>2</sup> is a straight-chain hydrocarbon group or an hydrocarbon group substituted with a carboxylic acid group and

wherein the polymer included in the intermediate layer further comprises a structure derived from a monomer selected from substituted or non-substituted acrylates or methacrylates and

wherein the infrared absorbing agent is represented by formula (a)



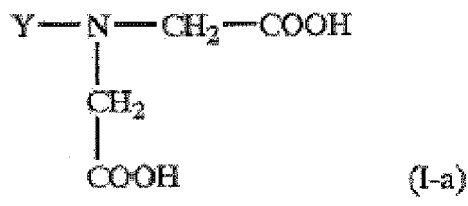
wherein  $X^1$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom,  $-NPh_2$ ,  $X^2-L^1$  or a group shown below



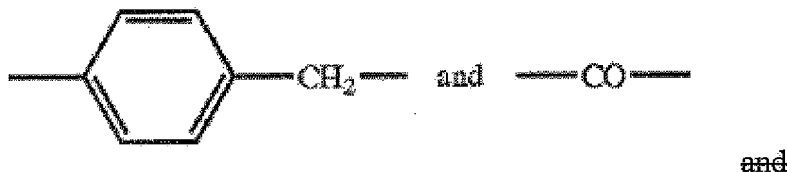
$X^2$  represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom and  $L^1$  represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aromatic ring having a heteroatom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms and containing a heteroatom,  $X_a^-$  is a counter anion,  $R^a$  represents a substituent selected from a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group and a halogen atom,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each independently represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms,  $Ar^1$  and  $Ar^2$ , which may be the same or different, each represent an aromatic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent,  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$ , which may be the same or different, each represent a sulfur atom or a dialkylmethylene group having 12 or less carbon atoms,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$ , which may be the same or different, each represent a hydrocarbon group, which may have a substituent and has 20 or less carbon atoms,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$ , which may be the same or different, each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 12 or less carbon atoms, and  $Za^-$  represents a counter anion.

**3. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein in the formula (I),  $R^1$  is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxylic acid group, and  $R^2$  is a straight-chain alkylene group.

4. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor comprising an intermediate layer containing a polymer having a structure represented by the following formula (I-a) and an onium group at its side chain and an infrared laser photosensitive positive recording layer containing an infrared absorbing agent disposed on a support in this order:

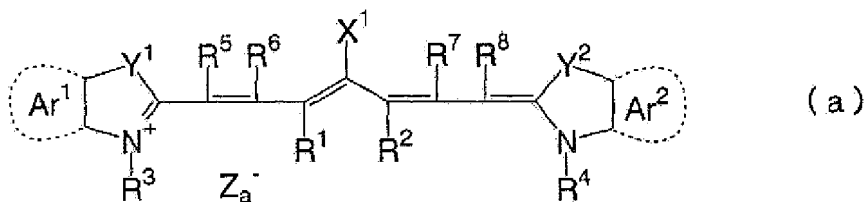


wherein Y represents a connecting group selected from the following structures



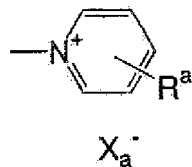
wherein the polymer included in the intermediate layer further comprises a structure derived from a monomer selected from substituted or non-substituted acrylates or methacrylates and

wherein the infrared absorbing agent is represented by formula (a)



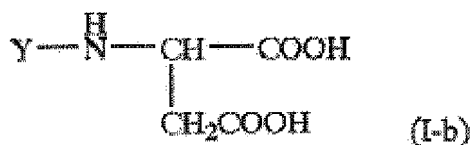
wherein X<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, -NPh<sub>2</sub>, X<sup>2</sup>-L<sup>1</sup> or a group shown

below

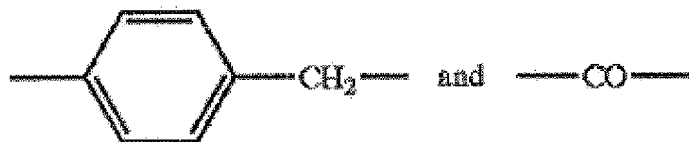


X<sup>2</sup> represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom and L<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aromatic ring having a heteroatom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms and containing a heteroatom, X<sub>a</sub><sup>-</sup> is a counter anion, R<sup>a</sup> represents a substituent selected from a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group and a halogen atom, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each independently represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, Ar<sup>1</sup> and Ar<sup>2</sup>, which may be the same or different, each represent an aromatic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent, Y<sup>1</sup> and Y<sup>2</sup>, which may be the same or different, each represent a sulfur atom or a dialkylmethylene group having 12 or less carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, which may be the same or different, each represent a hydrocarbon group, which may have a substituent and has 20 or less carbon atoms, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup>, which may be the same or different, each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 12 or less carbon atoms, and Z<sub>a</sub><sup>-</sup> represents a counter anion.

**5. (currently amended):** A planographic printing plate precursor comprising an intermediate layer containing a polymer having a structure represented by the following formula (I-b) and an onium group at its side chain and an infrared laser photosensitive positive recording layer containing an infrared absorbing agent disposed on a support in this order:



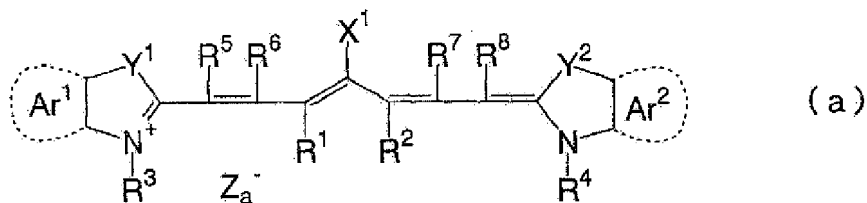
wherein Y represents a connecting group selected from the following structures



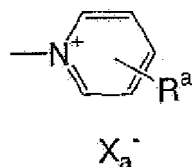
and

wherein the polymer included in the intermediate layer further comprises a structure derived from a monomer selected from substituted or non-substituted acrylates or methacrylates and

wherein the infrared absorbing agent is represented by formula (a)



wherein X<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, -NPh<sub>2</sub>, X<sup>2</sup>-L<sup>1</sup> or a group shown below



X<sup>2</sup> represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom and L<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aromatic ring having a heteroatom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms and containing a heteroatom, X<sub>a</sub><sup>-</sup> is a counter anion, R<sup>a</sup> represents a substituent selected from a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group and a halogen atom, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each independently represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, Ar<sup>1</sup> and Ar<sup>2</sup>, which may be the same or

different, each represent an aromatic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent, Y<sup>1</sup> and Y<sup>2</sup>, which may be the same or different, each represent a sulfur atom or a dialkylmethylene group having 12 or less carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, which may be the same or different, each represent a hydrocarbon group, which may have a substituent and has 20 or less carbon atoms, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup>, which may be the same or different, each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 12 or less carbon atoms, and Z<sup>a-</sup> represents a counter anion.

**6. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein a content of the structure represented by the formula (I) in the polymer is 5% by mole or more.

**7. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the polymer is a polymer obtained by copolymerizing a monomer having the structure represented by the formula (I) with another monomer.

**8. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein the another monomer is a monomer having an onium group.

**9. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein the another monomer is a monomer having an acidic group.

**10. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein the another monomer is a monomer having a functional group that is capable of interaction with the recording layer.

**11. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein a content of the polymer in the intermediate layer is 50 to 100% by mass based on a total solid content constituting the intermediate layer.

**12. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein a weight average molecular weight of the polymer is 500 to 1,000,000.

**13. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein a coating amount of the intermediate layer after drying is 1 to 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

**14. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the recording layer contains an alkali-soluble resin.

**15. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the alkali-soluble resin has an acidic group selected from the group consisting of a phenolic hydroxyl group, a sulfonamide group, a substituted sulfonamide acidic group, a carboxylic acid group, a sulfonic acid group and a phosphoric acid group.

**16. (canceled).**

**17. (canceled).**

**18. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the recording layer has a multilayer structure.

**19. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the support is a support that has undergone hydrophilicizing treatment using an alkali metal silicate.

**20. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the absorbing agent is a cyanine dye.

**21. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 4, wherein the absorbing agent is a cyanine dye.

**22. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 5, wherein the absorbing agent is a cyanine dye.

**23-28. (canceled).**

**29. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein the monomer is selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate,



ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, amylacrylate, hexylacrylate, cyclohexylacrylate, octylacrylate, phenylacrylate, benzylacrylate, 2-chloroethylacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylacrylate, glycidylacrylate, N-dimethylaminoethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, propylmethacrylate, butylmethacrylate, amylmethacrylate, hexylmethacrylate, cyclohexylmethacrylate, octylmethacrylate, phenylmethacrylate, benzylmethacrylate, 2-chloroethylmethacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylmethacrylate, glycidylmethacrylate and N-dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate.

**30. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 4, wherein the monomer is selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, amylacrylate, hexylacrylate, cyclohexylacrylate, octylacrylate, phenylacrylate, benzylacrylate, 2-chloroethylacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylacrylate, glycidylacrylate, N-dimethylaminoethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, propylmethacrylate, butylmethacrylate, amylmethacrylate, hexylmethacrylate, cyclohexylmethacrylate, octylmethacrylate, phenylmethacrylate, benzylmethacrylate, 2-chloroethylmethacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylmethacrylate, glycidylmethacrylate and N-dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate.

**31. (previously presented):** The planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 5, wherein the monomer is selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, amylacrylate, hexylacrylate, cyclohexylacrylate, octylacrylate, phenylacrylate, benzylacrylate, 2-chloroethylacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylacrylate, glycidylacrylate, N-dimethylaminoethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, propylmethacrylate, butylmethacrylate, amylmethacrylate, hexylmethacrylate, cyclohexylmethacrylate,

octylmethacrylate, phenylmethacrylate, benzylmethacrylate, 2-chloroethylmethacrylate, 4-hydroxybutylmethacrylate, glycidylmethacrylate and N-dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate.